

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 43**  
**INCIDENT NO. 97-015**  
**DATE: May 23, 1997      TIME: 12:00 P.M.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Job Service North Dakota reports a shortage of employees for more than 2,104 temporary and permanent jobs that are open in Grand Forks. In comparison, 1,157 people have registered for jobs.

Devils Lake continues its steady climb, reaching 1,441.57 feet MSL on May 23. Meanwhile, the Red River of the North has been receding at Drayton and Pembina, where levels are now approximately five feet above flood stage. The river at Drayton measured 36.9 feet; flood stage is 32 feet. The river at Pembina was 46.44 feet; flood stage is 42 feet. At Fargo, the river level remains slightly above its 17-foot flood stage.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross (ARC), Lakewood Bible Camp, Mayville State University, Anishinaubag Lutheran Bible Camp and the Turtle River State Park are operating five shelters for persons displaced by flooding. As of May 22, 368 persons were staying at the shelters. Two shelters continue to operate for 108 emergency workers, who are staying either the University of North Dakota (UND) Hyslop Sports Arena or the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

The ARC has received 64 new Emergency Assistance cases for a total of 7,900 cases. Of

those cases, 7,157 have been closed with financial assistance and 491 with services. ARC Mental Health has made 10,377 contacts, and Health Services conducted 1,312 assessments.

The Donations Coordination Center reported that 1,665 people have volunteered to help with flood response and recovery efforts.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced Bowman and Burke Counties have qualified for additional Public Assistance aid to help repair damages to their infrastructure systems. Damages occurred as a result of winter storms and flooding.

Grand Forks City/County Health Department has hired Ecolab to conduct an assessment of possible rat infestation in the Riverside, Central and Lincoln Park areas. If a problem exists, the company will exterminate the vermin.

In response to the demand for employees in Grand Forks, Job Service conducted a three-day Job Fair earlier this week to match prospective employers and employees. Areas of job openings include construction, manufacturing, retail and services.

A federal Hazard Mitigation Team is conducting an assessment of destroyed and significantly damaged structures. Accelerated procedures are being considered for potential property acquisition projects for North Dakota.

The Disaster Housing Program staff is developing plans to ensure that flood victims with special needs have adequate long-term housing and have registered personal property damages with the National Teleregistration Center. To date, the program has received 25 mobile homes and 106 travel trailers, which are being assigned to persons displaced by flooding. Evacuees are also occupying 359 beds at the University of North Dakota (UND).

The N.D. Department of Agriculture reports that field crews disposed of approximately 11 million pounds of animals that perished during the April 4-6 blizzard. More than 950 carcasses were removed from waterways and a total of 13,700 carcasses were buried. During a three-week period, more than 400 North Dakota producers received assistance with carcass disposal.

The Agriculture Disaster Response Center (ADRC), which opened mid-April, has received more than 1,600 calls to date from farmers and ranchers inquiring about animal carcass removal and agriculture disaster assistance programs.

Officials for the Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reduced releases from the Jamestown and Pipestem Dams on May 21-22 to allow for repair of a broken water main downstream in Jamestown. Pipestem releases were reduced to 250 cubic feet per second (cfs) and Jamestown releases to 350 cfs while crews repaired the water main located at the Third Street Bridge. Releases are scheduled to be increased to 1,000 cfs at Jamestown and 750 cfs at Pipestem.

As of May 23, the State/Federal Disaster Field Office (DFO) has received 273 Notice of

Interest applications for participation in the FEMA Public Assistance Program. Applicants include: 47 counties; 153 cities; 12 electrical cooperatives; four tribal governments; nine state agencies; nine park districts; 10 water districts; four universities, 22 public school districts; and three private nonprofit organizations.

To date, \$6.3 million Public Assistance funds have been obligated for 100 percent federal reimbursement of emergency protective measures and debris removal. The DFO processing center has received 381 Public Assistance Damage Survey Reports (DSRs). Of those, 101 DSRs have been obligated, and DSRs have been completed for 46 applicants.

A National Teleregistration Center report indicates that 32,626 North Dakotans have reported personal property damages. Of those applicants, 4 percent are over the age of 80. As of May 22, 19,914 applicants had received \$32,721,509 in Disaster Housing assistance. The state Individual and Family Grant program has received 15,457 applications. The program staff has approved 789 applications for \$821,457 in grants. The Small Business Administration (SBA) has received 6,093 loan applications. Of these, 1,542 have been approved for a total of \$29,191,700 in loans.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:

N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>  
N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>  
N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>  
N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>  
U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/>

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director